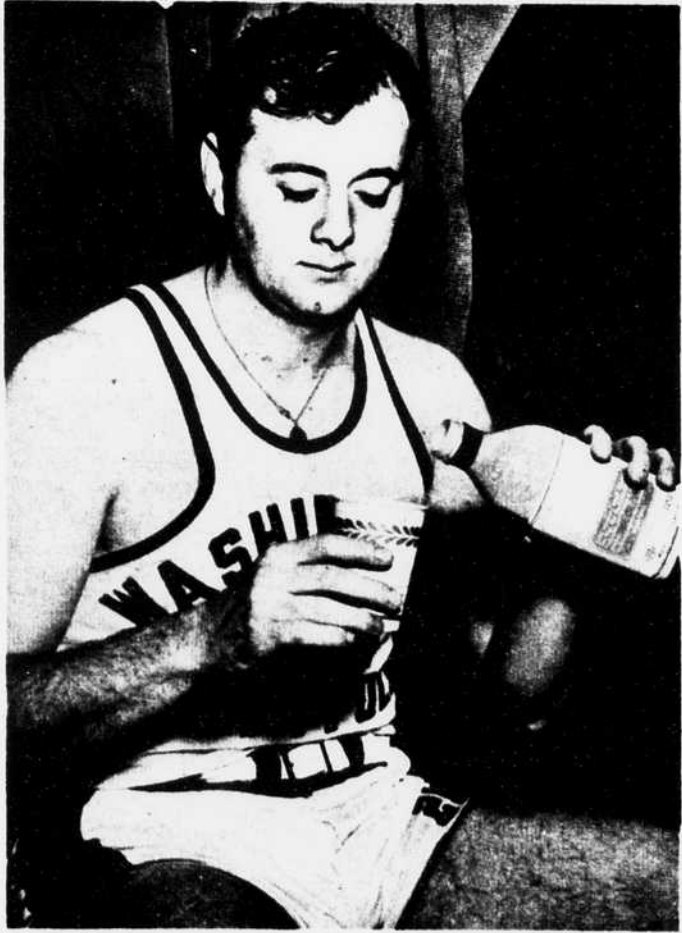




Coach Red Auerbach, in his accustomed place at the left end of the bench, holds a rolled-up program. Next to him is Kleggie Hermesen, and the man with the hat is the team's trainer, George (Doc) Lentz, also trainer for the baseball Nationals.



Freddie Scolari (above) pours his ritualistic "shot" of patent medicine before a game. Right: Matt Zunic exudes optimism as he fingers his "lucky" \$2 bills.

Star Staff Photos by Paul Schmick.



Dick Schulz, a forward, says if he has a particularly good night he will remember everything he ate or did, the hours he kept, the nap he took, the cup of tea he drank, and will repeat the same routine until the charm is broken.

Dick O'Keefe is a No. 13 fetishist. He has worn the same number through high school, college and his pro career. Johnny Norlander swears by his No. 16, which he, too, wore on his high school and Hamline University teams. Norlander also believes strongly in the power of a blue English tweed suit which he wears the day of each game—or, at least, wore

until the Caps hit a bad streak.

Coach Red Auerbach used to be the most superstitious of them all, but now he places his faith in only two idiosyncracies: He sits on the end of the players' bench—no one can be at his left, and he always carries a program, rolled up.

The only man who disdains superstition is Feerick, but not even he would consider flouting the tradition that he go on the floor first. According to Coach Auerbach, however, Feerick does have a superstition:

"He believes in putting the ball in the basket."

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